Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.

Editor: Michael P Birks, Flixton Girls' School, Urmston, Manchester M31 3DR, England 061-747 5924 (Home)

Vol II, No.28 June 1987

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

We come to an end of another season - certainly a successful one from the point of view of our Central American Group. We enjoyed a most happy meeting at Urmston, near Manchester, which was organised by our Editor, Mike Birks in March and then in April followed a meeting for Central American material only, organised by Dr Richard Saundry at the Victory Services Club.

The opening meeting of the Spanish Main will be on Saturday September 19th, as usual in the Allenby Rooms at the Victory Services Club. We look forward to a bumper attendance - not only to start off our new season well, but more importantly, to wish our fellow members every success at the forthcoming International in Copenhagen in October. We have three members - Michael Birks, Dr Richard Saundry and Professor John West - who have the required National award and will be showing their exhibits at Hafnia. Material to be shown includes Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Chile and both our active Central American and Chile groups will be represented. I look forward to your support to give them a fine send off!

Brian Moorhouse commented in a recent Mainsheet editorial on the reduction to only one annual competitive show at which the potential exhibitor can obtain the National vermeil medal now demanded by F.I.P. for International exhibiting. 1990 is not far away and hopefully more of our members will enter the Autumn Stampex/BPE; the 1987 prospectus and entry form can be obtained by writing NOW to Stampex/BPE, 27 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HX.

It seems a pity to me that there is now only one chance each year to gain the required National award. Whereas I appreciate that not inconsiderable expense must be involved if this competitive exhibition is to be held at a National Show, surely we could revert to exhibits being judged elsewhere before the show and perhaps only certain frames from the winning entries to be displayed at the National show itself. It does seem to me that too little encouragement is given to potential International exhibitors to "spread their wings".

May 1987 John Fosbery

Newton Abbot, Devon President: The Spanish Main

THE 1906 ISSUE OF EL SALVADOR - THE ESCALON ISSUE

by RUSSEL HAYDON

The 1906 issue of El Salvador bearing the portrait of the President of the Republic, Pedro José Escalon, was printed in San Salvador by Carlos Parraga. The plates used for the recess printing were engraved by Thomas Macdonald, an employee of Waterlow and Sons. There is some doubt as to whether he was working for Waterlow directly, or free-lancing.

These stamps were the first recessed issue for Salvador, and the next two issues (the National Palace and the Figueroa sets) were probably printed in the same fashion in sheets of twenty five, five rows of five stamps. They were printed by a double process: single working plates were used. First the frames were printed in colour covering the central portion of the stamp with a felt mat, then the frames were similarly covered whilst the central portion was printed in black (or indigo on some Officials).

It is this printing method, or more correctly the carelessness involved in the printing that resulted in many of the errors on these stamps. These errors are name omitted, name doubled or name partially doubled. The Officials were printed with far less care than the postage stamps and this shows in the number of errors on each.

Regarding reprints, the catalogues are misleading. Originals are on thick tan-coloured paper with a glazed printing surface, and the gum colour ranges from colourless to medium brown, all being perforated 11½. The reprints are on a generally thicker creamy-coloured paper which also has a glazed printing surface with pale yellowish gum and perforated 11¾. Paper colour rather than gum colour is preferable in distinguishing between the originals and the reprints.

There appears to have been a stamp shortage in 1907 since covers with postal stationery cut-outs, with and without perfins, are known. I do not see how there could be a stamp shortage since the Palace issue had just been released. The perfins used are 1, 2, 3 and 5.

The 1c, 2c and 3c stamps were overprinted with a shield as used in 1900. This overprint was in black but the 1c and 2c also have the overprint in red. The overprint was applied carelessly and it exists in all directions.

The 5c and 6c stamps were overprinted with the shield and were also surcharged, which supports my theory of a stamp shortage in 1907.

As a last word the 1c postage stamp appears on thin paper. This paper is the same type as that used by Waterlow & Sons around the same time as this stamp was printed. Is there a connection between these stamps and Waterlow & Sons? Was Thomas Macdonald working for them or for himself when he designed and engraved the plates for these stamps? Finally does any one have any knowledge of a stamp shortage in 1907-11?

CAVEAT EMPTOR by LEO MALZ

I recently purchased a Honduras cover at auction, and subsequently suspected that it was bad. I sent the cover along to Henry Madden for his opinion, which confirmed what I believed - the cover had been tampered with.

I was able to return the cover to the auctioneer, and since it is possible it may be offered again, details of it may be of help to others.

Two stamps have been torn off the cover, from the top left corner, and this is revealed by holding the cover to the light. The tear was concealed by the addition of the 10c and 2c adhesives, and to complete the "row" the 30c stamp and registry label (which still has paper adhering to the back) also appear to have been added. The "A.R." suggests the cover originated elsewhere, possibly Amapala, since Tegucigalpa had a different handstamp, incorporating a large circle.

Caveat Emptor!

SPANISH MAIN Annual subscription £5 (UK), £6 (Europe), $15 (elsewhere) The subscription includes four copies of Mainsheet, and also private treaty lists and auction catalogues.

Secretary: Brian Moorhouse, PO Box 105, PETERBOROUGH PE3 8TQ, England.

The society also runs two specialised groups, the Central American and the Chile groups. The subscription to each group is £3 (UK) or $7 elsewhere, to Spanish Main members, or $10 to non-members (Overseas subscriptions only). This includes four copies of the respective Newsletter, by airmail.

MORE ON SEEBECK

Putting pen to paper is a sure way to stimulate interest in others, and frequently unearth new facts about a subject. The publication of Danilo Mueses' book on the life of Seebeck, "Seebeck, hero or Villain", which we are currently serialising in English has produced several such responses.

Henry Madden writes to tell us that the suggestion that Seebeck emigrated to the U.S. in 1873 cannot be true, since a price list produced by Seebeck in 1872-3-4 has been found. The 1872 list is reproduced below. Henry imagines that Seebeck emigrated as a child.

ESTABLISHED 1872.

—o—

I beg to call the attention of advanced collectors to my large and constantly increasing stock of rare U. S. and Foreign Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes, Postal Cards, U. S. Locals, Confederate Provisionals, Proofs and Essays of U. S. & Foreign Stamps, &c., &c., including amongst others:

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, one shilling.
New Foundland, 1857, *scarlet.*
Mexico, *used Guadalajara.*
U. S. Colombia, nearly complete.
Bolivia, 500 Centavos.
United States Carrier Stamps, red and black.
United States, Reay & Plimpton War Envelopes.
U. S. Providence, R. I., 5 & 10 cts., sheet of 12 varieties.
United States Envelopes, entire.
Canada, 1st issue, complete.
Bergedorf, 1st issue, ½ and 3 sch., original.
Ceylon Envelopes, Luzon, 1st, 2d & 3d issue.
Portugese India, 1871, '72, '76 and '78.
Spain, 1852, 2 reales.
Switzerland, (Geneva, Zurich, &c.)
Proofs and Essays of U. S. and Foreign Stamps in various colors
Russian Locals, in large variety.
U. S. Locals and Confederate Provisionals
Genuine Originals, used, on envelopes.

☞ PLEASE SEND LIST OF YOUR WANTS. ☜

Agent for the Celebrated

"Universal," "Illustrated" and Permanent Stamp Albums.

Price List of Albums, packets and cheap sets of stamps sent post-free, to any address.

Descriptive Price Catalogue brought up to date sent post free to any address for 12 cents.

Exchange Circular, 5 cents, post-free.

The highest cash prices paid for collections of stamps; also, for rare stamps in any quantity.

Larger collections disposed of by auction on liberal terms.

Address,

N. F. SEEBECK,

97 WALL STREET, NEW YORK

Henry adds:

> "One point that Sr Mueses fails to mention in Seebeck joining the Hamilton Bank Note Company that you may find interesting. Hamilton was in dire financial straits in 1884 and called upon Seebeck to put up or that is buy 5,000 shares of Hamilton for US$30,000. A lot of money then. The agreement appears in the minute book of the Board of Directors meeting of April 8, 1884. Seebeck then appears as a member of the board in the meeting of October 10, 1884. As you probably now have guessed we have a Xerox copy of the Hamilton minute book.

BALPEX 1987

The International Society of Seebeck Studies is holding its first meeting and exhibition at BALPEX in Baltimore during the first weekend in September. There will be 100-150 standard (4 x 4) frames available, and prospective exhibitors are asked to contact Henry Madden, 4003 N Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 1218, U.S.A. directly.

In addition to the regular awards, the FIAP will have a special award for the best Seebeck exhibit.

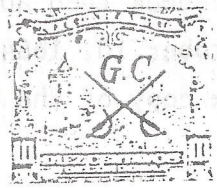
A MYSTERIOUS HONDURAN FIRST FLIGHT COVER Issue 26, page 65

Richard Saundry's enquiry regarding a registered airmail cover from Tegucigalpa to Tela, with an unexplained delay of about 10 days, brought this response from Sydney Dobson.

> "Referring to Mr Saundry's enquiry ..... I may be able to help. The information I have comes from Theodore Champions book 'Catalogue Historique & Descriptif des Timbres de la Poste Aérienne'.
>
> The Postal obliteration of 7th October 1929 as illustrated was applied on that date to aerograms franked with the new aerial stamps for 5c, 10c and 15c. The flight was arranged for this date, but on account of bad atmospheric conditions did not take place until October 15th. Some aerograms bear the Tela arrival cachet of October 15th, although presumably the cover illustrated does not. The delay of the flight helps to explain the 17th October postmarks."

NICARAGUA: A MYSTERY AND A FORGERY?

Kilian Nathan sends us four interesting stamps. The first three are overprinted in black with crossed sabres and the letter "G.C.". He speculates that these letters could stans for "Guardia Civil" and wonders whether they were an authorised production or just private.



The possible forgery is an inverted 10c on 5c American Bank Note Issue, the surcharge being of the type employed in 1910. However the 10c surcharge does not appear on the 5c stamp, according to the catalogue listings.

I am personally satisfied that this stamp is a forgery for several reasons. First the surcharge is of a poor quality, the centres of the strokes of the letters and numerals being uninked. Secondly several letters are not the same shape as the original, being either narrower, or the loops of the letters, in particular the "s" being distinctly different. Thirdly the surcharge has an irregular appearance, in particular the slopes of the letters and numerals are not all the same.

Has anyone seen anything similar? Replies are invited via, as usual, the Editor.

A NEW EL SALVADOR VARIETY?

Russel Haydon enquires about the status of a 1900 Overprint on a Ceres stamp of El Salvador. The stamp in question is SG429, that is 5c on 24c pale blue, but the surcharge reads 1c. It has a wheel overprint and the spacing between "1900" and "CENTAVO" is 9mm suggesting the overprint was applied in February 1900.
(Is it a coincidence that SG430 has the same variety, but corrected? Was the same matrix used for both surcharges? Was there perhaps one incorrectly assembled cliché in the matrix, or possibly more than one? Or was a sheet of 24c stamps inadvertantly surcharged during the production of the 1c surcharge? - Ed)

Replies are invited via, as usual, the Editor.

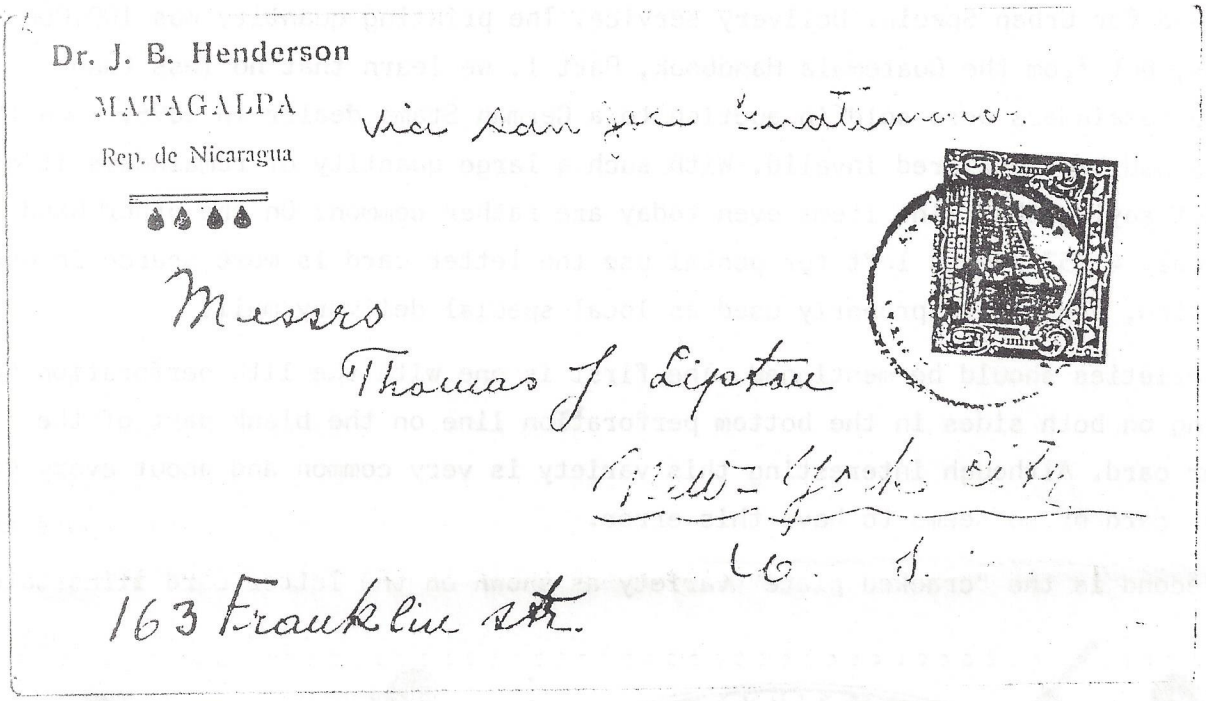
continued from page 82

The plate has broken from the thin line over "E" of "TARJETAS" through the "S" of "SERVICIO" and further through the Exposition building down to the left side of the period left of "GUATEMALA". The crack is again visible through the left stroke of "C" of "NACIONALES".

This last variety was found in a mixed lot of Latin American postal stationery.

VIA SAN JOSE

We illustrate an interesting Nicaraguan cover sent to us by Mark Spycher who describes it as being "from Matagalpa to New York with m/s 'Via San Jose Guatemala', postmarked in Corinto, and with two Guatemalan backstamps". But why was it sent via Guatemala, and not put on board a steamer at Corinto in the usual way? Henry Madden says of it "Your Nicaragua via Guatemala is a new one to me".



Kilian Nathan suggests that perhaps this particular letter missed the steamer to Panama, and with the service being irregular (probably in connection with the war in Europe; the US decalred war on Germany 3 months later) the letter could have been carried with a northbound ship to San Jose, and then with the Guatemala mails via Puerto Barrios. Clearly it was not the original sender's wish for the letter to go via Guatemala, since the endorsement is in a different hand, and must have been added later.

Perhaps you know differently. Replies are invited via, as usual, the Editor.

THE REVENUE STAMPS OF EL SALVADOR

Can you help?

Phillips B Freer has been working on a catalogue/handbook of the revenue stamps of El Salvador and would appreciate answers to the following questions.

Does El Salvador still issue Federal and/or Municipal revenue stamps?

If such stamps are no longer issued, in what year were they last issued?

Replies are invited via, as usual, the Editor.

GUATEMALA 12c LETTER CARD OF 1897 by FINN STJERNHOLCK

The fine stamp and postal stationery issues made on the occasion of the Central American Exposition in Guatemala in 1897 are well known to Guatemala collectors. Both were printed by the American Bank Note Company of New York. According to a Government decree no other issues could be used during the Exposition, that is from January 1st to December 31st 1897, later extended a few months.

The postal stationery issue consists among others of a 12 centavos letter card, intended for Urban Special Delivery service. The printing quantity was 100,000 pieces, but from the Guatemala Handbook, Part I, we learn that no less than 95,743 remainders were sold in auction to a German Stamp dealer in 1898, when the issues had been declared invalid. With such a large quantity of remainders it goes without saying that mint items even today are rather common. On the other hand with only 4,257 pieces left for postal use the letter card is more scarce in used condition, especially properly used as local special delivery mail.

Two varieties should be mentioned. The first is one with the 11th perforation hole missing on both sides in the bottom perforation line on the blank part of the letter card. Although interesting this variety is very common and about every 4th letter card or so seems to have this error.

The second is the "cracked plate" variety as shown on the letter card illusrtated.

Continued on page 80

2 - The stamps now in use will be declared null and void from 1 January.

3 - People who possess these stamps must exchange them before the 31st of this month.

4 - The Director General of Postal Services will give the necessary orders for the completion of the present order.

5 - All the stock of stamps of the out of use issues, and those which are in the treasury offices, will be sent to N F Seebeck, Secretary of the Hamilton Company of New York, in fulfilment of Article VI of the previous contract.

Validated by the President

(Signed)

LARREYNAGA

Secretario

In effect the stamps in existence were collected and in "The American Philatelist" of July 10th 1890, we find the following notice:-

> "A correspondent writes to tell us that a house in San Salvador sent two boxes of stamps of El Salvador, newly obsolete, to N F Seebeck; the face value of the shipment amounted to $20,605.35."

Figure 7. Stamps from the first Seebeck issue of El Salvador

Figure 8. Second issue

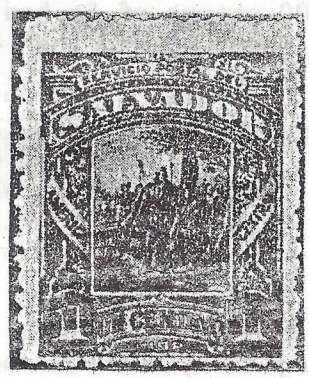


Figure 9. Third issue

Second issue

On January 1st 1891 as established in the contract, all the stamps of the previous issue were withdrawn from circulation, and sent to the United States, and the Hamilton Company made delivery of a new issue. The stamps which were of a rather smaller format than those of the previous issue, show San Miguel volcano, a ship and a locomotive. The central vignette is the same on the ten values but the borders are different.

The stamps are printed by engraving and perforated 12. The issue consists of the following values and colours.

1c vermilion orange	11c pale violet
2c yellow green	20c pale green
3c violet	25c dark green
5c carmine	50c dark blue
10c blue	1p yellow brown

Of this issue there are known several types of reprint on thicker paper and darker gum. The reprints of the 1 peso stamp carry on the back control numbers printed in a pale greenish blue. The reason for those control numbers according to Leavy was because some traders were refusing to maintian the 50c per set price which Seebeck had established. In an attempt to find out who was selling below the fixed price, Seebeck ordered the printing of the control numbers with the idea of discovering the guilty ones in order not to accept their new orders.

By the middle of 1891 the 1c and 5c stamps were used up and the postal authorities of El Salvador overprinted locally a lot of 2c and 3c stamps of this issue.

Third issue

On January 1st 1892 the third issue was handed over beginning with an early commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the discovery of America. The stamps show Columbus disembarking on the island of San Salvador. They were printed by engraving and perforated 12. It consists of the following values and colours:-

1c dark green	11c brown
2c orange brown	20c orange
3c ultramarine	25c brown
5c grey	50c yellow
10c vermilion	1p carmine-lake

In October 1892 the stamps of this issue of values 5c, 20c and 25c were surcharged when supplies of the 1c stamp of this issue were exhausted. In relation to the 1c on 5c stamps, "The Philatelic Journal of America" of November 1892 commented that 50,000 stamps of 5c had been surcharged owing to the fact that the 1c stamps had been used up, and then it adds:-

> "This is a comment on Seebeck, who supplies this country's stamps and who did not send sufficient stamps for postal needs. Although El Salvador has exhausted supplies of 1c stamps in the latter part of the year in which they were issued (1892) there is little doubt that Seebeck will have sufficient remainders to supply 'sets' to collectors and traders who may require them."

Fourth issue

During 1893, Seebeck made two deliveries of stamps. The first on January 1st 1893 consists of 10 stamps of small format showing on their vignette, General Carlos Ezeta. In the January 1893 edition of "The Philatelic Journal of America", commenting on this issue it noted:-

> "The new issue carries the portrait of the New York policeman whose beat is from Gold Street to the Brooklyn Bridge."

Figure 10
Stamp of the 4th issue
showing General Ezeta

Figure 11. 2 pesos stamp
issued July 1st 1893

As we have not seen an authentic portrait of General Ezeta we do not know whether the comment is correct, or if it is rather one of those cruel jokes so common in the philatelic press of those times, alluding to the police helmet the general is wearing.

On July 1st 1893 three additional values of 2, 5 and 10 pesos were issued, these last three, supposedly issued to commemorate the discovery of America as they show scenes related to the life of Columbus. They were printed on totally different paper from that used for the lower values of the issue. They were printed by engraving and perforated 12.

The composition of the issue is as follows:-

1c blue	25c dark olive grey
2c brown red	50c orange red
3c purple	1p black
5c dark brown	2p green
10c orange brown	5p violet
11c vermilion	10p orange
20c green	

In relation to the high values of this issue, Scott's catalogue shows that the 2 pesos stamp is known on cover but those of 5 pesos and 10 pesos were not used for postage and they do not give a quotation for the used stamps. Hahn and Sousa show that all the covers which they have seen with $2 stamps do not have arrival markings on the back of the envelope.

Clyde Gentle in an article published in "Stamp Collector" in 1977 says that "the issue of stamps with a face value of up to 10 pesos for Nicaragua and in certain measure for El Salvador and Ecuador was justly criticised. This value represents a sum which far exceeds the postal needs of those countries". This argument does not carry much weight as we shall see in Chapter XII.

In December 1893 the 2c stamps were locally surcharged 1c.

Fifth issue

On January 1st 1894 the stamps of the fifth issue were circulated, consisting of 13 values. On the stamps of 1c to 1 peso an allegory of Liberty was used and on the high values vignettes with the theme of the seemingly inexhaustible Columbus.

For the high values the format is larger. Seebeck sent to the country two series on totally different papers, one of which has been confused with a reprint.

They were printed by engraving and perforated 12. The issue consists of the following values and colours:-

1c brown	25c orange
2c blue	50c black
3c brown	1p slate blue
5c orange brown	2p dark blue
10c violet	5p carmine
20c dark blue	10p dark brown

The three highest values of this issue are not known used for postal purposes and the catalogues do not give a quotation for them in used condition.

The 11c stamps were locally surcharged with a 1c value.

Sixth issue

On January 1st 1895 a new issue of 12 values was circularised. The stamp vignette shows Antonio Ezeta, brother of the President; it happened however that with the stamps already printed, the President was unseated by a revolution headed by Rafael Gutierrez. The new authorities refused to accept the stamps with the picture of the brother of the deposed President. As there was no time to prepare new stamps, as a compromise solution it was ordered that the stamps be overprinted with the national coat of arms to obliterate the portrait. The coat of arms is printed in different colours.

Figure 12.
Stamp of the 5th issue of El Salvador

Figure 13.
Stamp of the 6th issue with overprinted coat of arms.

Figure 14.
Stamp corresponding to the 7th issue.

They were printed by engraving and perforated 12. The set consists of the following values and colours:-

1c olive and green	15c vermilion and brown
2c olive green and blue	20c yellow and brown
3c brown and brown	24c violet and brown
5c blue and brown	30c dark blue and blue
10c orange and brown	50c carmine and brown
12c magenta and brown	1p black and brown

The second colour is that of the overprint. The series is known without the overprint but these belong to the remainders. The 2c stamp was reprinted in a yellow green colour on a thicker paper.

Seventh issue

On January 15th 1895, or hardly 15 days after the previous issue, a second series showing the national coat of arms and different frames was issued. The stamps are printed by engraving and perforated 12.

It consists of the following values:-

1c olive	15c red
2c dark green blue	20c dark green
3c brown	24c violet
5c blue	30c dark blue
10c orange	50c carmine
12c claret	1p grey black

Reprints are known of all the values of this issue printed on thicker paper than the originals.

In December 1895, as the 1c, 2c and 3c value stamps of this issue were running short, the surcharging was ordered of the stamps of 12, 20, 24 and 30c of this issue with new values.

Eighth issue

On January 1st 1896 the eighth issue of El Salvador was circulated. The vignette shows an allegory of Liberty and were printed by engraving and perforated 12.

The series consists of the following values:-

1c blue	15c violet blue
2c dark brown	20c magenta
3c blue green	24c vermilion
5c olive brown	30c orange
10c yellow	50c brownish black
12c dark blue	1p rose-lake

A 2c stamp on watermarked paper was issued.

Of the stamps of this issue, the 1, 2, 12, 20, 30 and 50c stamps were reprinted in slightly different colours and on thicker paper. The 2c stamp was reprinted on watermarked paper, but, whilst on the originals the Cap of Liberty is vertical in the watermark, on the reprints it is horizontal.

Ninth issue

The ninth issue, whose exact date of issue we do not know, was issued in 1896 and consists of 24 values; 12 printed on paper without watermark and the same values printed on watermarked paper.

They were printed by engraving and perforated 12.

Figure 15.
One of the stamps
from the 8th issue

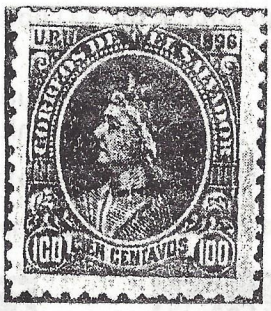


Figure 16
One of the stamps
from the 9th issue

The 12 stamps have different vignettes. The values and colours are the following:-

1c emerald	15c blue green
2c lake	20c carmine pink
3c yellow brown	24c violet
5c dark blue	30c dark green
10c brown	50c orange
12c slate	100c dark blue

Reprints of the 15, 20, 50 and 100c stamps on watermarked paper are known and of the 1, 2, 5, 12, 20, 24 and 100c stamps without watermark. The papers used for these reprints are thicker and the colours slightly different.

In November 1896 having used up all the 15c stamps, those of 24c with or without watermark were surcharged with the new value.

Tenth issue

Seemingly in the last years things deteriorated to such an extent that neither Seebeck nor Hamilton bothered to prepare a new vignette for the new series to be issued in 1897, and on January 1st of that year the new series appeared using the same vignettes as in the previous issue but printing the stamps in different colours. This would also be a part of what we have already outlined, or rather the new politics imposed by the financiers who controlled the business in an attempt to reduce costs to the minimum.

As in the previous issue the stamps were printed on paper with and without a watermark. They were printed by engraving and perforated 12.

The values and colours are as follows:-

1c red	15c black
2c yellow green	20c slate
3c yellow brown	24c yellow
5c orange	30c pink
10c green	50c violet
12c blue	100c lake-brown

They made two series of reprints; the first on watermarked paper consisting of the following values: 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 15, 50 and 100c and the complete issue on paper without watermark. In both series, the paper used for the reprints is thicker.

In September 1897 the rate was reduced from 15c for 15 grams to 13c for 15 grams. As there were no stamps of 13c the 24, 30, 50 and 100c watermarked and the 24, 30 and 50c without watermark were surcharged with their new value. The surcharging was in red and in black.

Eleventh issue

To commemorate the founding of the Central American Union, joining El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua and attempting to include Guatemala and Costa Rica, this series of two values was issued on March 5th 1897. The republic had been formed in 1895 and was dissolved in 1898. The vignette shows the Union's Coat of Arms.

The stamps were printed by lithography and perforated 12. The values and colours are as follows:-

1c blue, gold, pink and green
2c pink, gold, blue and green

Both stamps were reprinted in totally different colours on thicker paper.

These stamps were valid for one month only.

Figure 17. Stamp of the 11th issue showing the Coat of Arms of the Union.

Figure 18. Stamp from the 12th issue.

Figure 19. Stamp of the 13th issue showing the goddess Ceres.

Twelfth issue

On January 1st 1898 there was issued what, according to the catalogues, constitutes the last of the Seebeck issues for El Salvador. In consists of 12 values of the same design showing an allegory of the unity of Central America.

The stamps are printed by engraving on a thin paper and perforated 12. They are on watermarked paper. The issue consists of the following values and colours:-

1c orange red	13c lake-brown
2c pink	20c dark blue
3c pale green	24c ultramarine
5c bluish green	26c yellow brown
10c grey blue	50c orange
12c violet	1p yellow

The complete series was reprinted on paper without watermark and there is a second group of reprints which covers all the values except 12c and 20c on watermarked paper. The colours of the stamps are different and the paper is thicker in both groups of reprints.

Thirteenth issue

In spite of the fact that all the catalogues indicate that the previous issue was the last prepared by Seebeck for El Salvador, Hahn and Sousa demonstrate in their study that the series of 1899 (Scott 199/209) was also printed by Seebeck. In support of their affirmation they note that in the records of the destruction of the plates

(see Chapter XI), it is noted that those stamps were printed with a double plate which on one side had the stamps of the 1899 Nicaraguan issue (Scott 110/120) which everyone accepts as Seebeck prints, and on the other side the stamps of this El Salvador issue. In their study they note that making a comparison between the 1899 issues of the two countries they find that both are 100% equal in paper, gum and colour.

Upon that basis we shall note that the issue consists of the following values and colours:-

1c brown	13c dark pink
2c greenish grey	24c pale blue
3c blue	26c pinkish carmine
5c orange brown	50c orange red
10c chocolate	100c violet
12c dark green	

The stamps which show the goddess Ceres were printed by lithography. They are perforated 12. These were never issued and the catalogues only quote mint copies.

The stamps of this issue were then overprinted locally with a wheel and it was in that form that they circulated.

Other stamps printed by Seebeck

In addition to the stamps described above, Seebeck printed for the Government of El Salvador a series of official stamps, envelopes with printed stamps, wrapper bands for printed matter, parcel post stamps, postcards and postage dues. We do not have complete records of some of these, but we are going to spend a little time on those for which we do have information, specifically the official and the penalty stamps. In Chapter XI we shall try to give as complete a summary as possible of all the material produced by Seebeck.

Official Stamps

As part of Seebeck's contract 140 official stamps were printed. The stamps were prepared by overprinting on the ordinary stamps three different marks. The first, a small oval with the inscription "FRANQUEO OFICIAL" and which we shall call "Overprint No. 1", the second is like a postmark with the inscriptions "CORREOS DE EL SALVADOR" and "DE OFICIO" which we shall call "Overprint No. 2" and finally in 1899 a rather ornate third type was used which reads "FRANQUEO OFICIAL" and which we have defined as "Overprint No. 3". In figure 20 the three types of overprint are shown.

Figure 20. Different types of overprint used on official stamps.

First issue

It consists of 12 values of the eighth issue with overprint No. 1. They were issued in July 1896.

Second issue

It consists of the same values as the previous issues with overprint No. 2. They were issued in November 1896.

In an article published by Leavy he notes that this new overprint was used to differentiate between post carried by officials and that transported regularly by the Government. However this seems to be contradicted by an article published by

Hermann Fockle in the July 3rd edition of 1909 of "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News" in which he points out:-

> "This very day I have received the following letter from an official of the El Salvador Post Office. The stamps of El Salvador with the overprint in question, made with a rubber stamp which is still in existence, are the work of a subordinate employee of this office. These provisional stamps were never authorised by this Post Office as there has always been a plentiful supply of the regular official stamps since 1896 and these are simply spurious stamps. I have not been able to identify the employee who has been circulating these stamps of this country with the said overprint, for had I been able to he would have been dismissed from this office."

This seems to establish the spurious character of these stamps, but they continue to be listed in all the catalogues which have noted the 1c stamp of the 1st issue and the 1 and 2c stamps of the 2nd issue reprinted on thick paper.

Third issue

Stamps of the 9th issue both on paper with and without watermark with the overprint No. 1 (24 values). The 3 to 30c and the 100c stamps without watermark and the 15, 50 and 100c with watermark were reprinted.

Fourth issue

Stamps of the 9th issue with and without watermark with overprint No. 2 (24 values).

Fifth issue

Stamps of the 10th issue, with and without watermark, with overprint No. 1 (24 values). All the stamps without watermark, and the 1, 12, 15 and 100c stamps with watermark were reprinted.

Sixth issue

Stamps of the 10th issue with and without watermark with overprint No. 2 (24 values). The 1 and 15c stamps with watermark and the 12, 30, 50 and 100c without watermark have been reprinted on thick paper.

Seventh issue

Stamps of Acknowledgement of Receipt were issued in February 1897 with overprint No. 1 (20 values). They were reprinted on thick paper.

Eighth issue

Stamps of Certification issued in February 1876 with overprint No. 1 (2 values). They were reprinted on thick paper.

Ninth issue

Stamps of the 11th issue with overprint No. 2 (2 values).

Tenth issue

Stamps of the 12th issue with overprint No. 1 (12 values). Reprints were made of all the stamps, both with and without watermark, on thick paper.

Eleventh issue

Stamps of 1 and 3c of the 12th issue with overprint No. 2.

Twelfth issue

It corresponds to stamps of the 13th issue of 1899 with overprint No. 3. This issue was not circulated; at least the catalogues only report it in mint condition. The